

McMahon Named No. 2 at the CIA

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President Reagan named veteran intelligence expert John N. McMahon yesterday to replace Adm. Bobby Ray Inman as deputy director of the CIA, a move that prompted warm praise from Capitol Hill.

"The president considers John McMahon to be a solid professional, a career public servant who is widely respected throughout the intelligence community," said deputy press secretary Larry Speakes.

"The president is pleased to have a person who epitomizes the quality of the career civil servant in such an outstanding way," the spokesman said. If confirmed by the Senate, McMahon, 52, will replace the highly regarded Inman, who resigned last week, saying he wanted to seek a new career in civilian life.

The final choice was reported to have been narrowed to McMahon and Gen. Lew Allen Jr., who is retiring in June as Air Force chief of staff. McMahon was selected because of his impressive intelligence background.

He has served all four directorates of the agency, in the field as an agent, and briefly as acting deputy director in 1977-78.

The White House appeared to have heeded outspoken congressional advice that Capitol Hill, which has been less than enthusiastic about CIA Director William J. Casey, would insist on a "first-rate replacement" for Inman, who many considered to be the CIA's real manager on a day-to-day basis.

A graduate of Holy Cross College, Worcester, Mass., in 1951, McMahon joined the CIA in September of that year and was assigned to an unspecified post overseas in 1952.